



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL
SOCIETY, SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

*Preservation of Utah's Pioneer Heritage
in all areas: arts, crafts, skills, scenic,
recreational, cultural,
historic sites, trails, and landmarks.*

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SUP Salutes the Mormon Battalion



SUP SALUTES THE MORMON BATTALION

Every Son of a Utah Pioneer has been thrilled by the heroic story of the "Mormon Battalion" at one time or another. Their exploits have been told and retold in poem, story and on the stage. It is certainly fitting that the deeds of these heroic men and women should not go unmentioned and it is with pride that the *SUP News* salutes the Mormon Battalion in this issue of the magazine.

The Mormon Battalion was originally an organization of 500 men and a number of women, mostly the wives of Battalion members that went along as laundresses. This certainly was not a large military group, nor did this group participate in any of the major campaigns of the Mexican War. The real significance of the Battalion lies not in its size, but in the fact that it demonstrated to the nation on real and tangible proof that the expatriated Latter-day Saints were still loyal to the United States.

Its value to the Mormon church was extremely important in two ways. First, the pay that the Battalion members were given was a tremendous asset to the very poor Mormon community now making a mass exodus into an uninhabited and rather barren land. Second, of those who started the march of the Battalion, nearly one-third did not complete the march and were left at Pueblo, where they could easily join the first companies of Saints to arrive at the Salt Lake Valley. The addition of these strong young men was a great help to Brigham Young and the first Pioneers in preparing for the first winter in the valley.

The story of the long, arduous journey of the Battalion from Ft. Leavenworth Kansas, across the unmercifully hot southwestern United States has been told often. The accomplishments of the Battalion can be measured in their accomplishments. One certainly gains an appreciation for the courage of these men when we stop to think that after they had completed their service to the United States, built some of the first forts in California, been among the first to bring order to the new town of Los Angeles, and been present at the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill that they began their journey across the mountains and desert to reach Utah. Most of the members of the Battalion then continued



An Artist's Conception of the Mormon Battalion on its Long March to California Through the Hot, Dry Southwest.

their journey eastward another thousand miles to reunite themselves with their families and once again make the journey across the plains to Utah.

In memory of the tremendous efforts of these noble men, members of the Sons of Utah Pioneers organized an heritage organization to recall the deeds of this faithful band of pioneers. The modern-day Mormon Battalion is composed of a maximum of 500 men, just as the original Battalion, and endeavors to keep alive the heritage of the Mormon Battalion through their many appearances in Pioneer events.

The Battalion is commanded by General Fred E. H. Curtis, and is composed of 300 members of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. During the past year it has won wide recognition for its participation in many events. One of its most important accomplishments is its participation in the Civil Defense program. In this work the Battalion won recognition for their fine work and willing service. A part of a letter that was sent to the President of the United States by the Civil Defense Director for the State of Utah, Leonard A. Higgins is herein quoted: "An added service to our Civil Defense movement was the Mormon Battalion, recently organized to act as military liaison in the Security Division of our State Civil Defense. Their cooperation was excellent."

On May 9, 1960, at Jackling Hall, National Guard Armory, 1543 Sunnyside

Ave., Salt Lake City, pursuant to call of Maj. Gen. Max E. Rich, the Mormon Battalion assembled, went into line formation, and were part of the inspection exercises of a high officer of the Ninth Service Command. On the announcement the presence of the Battalion was noted in connection with the Utah National Guard. It was beginning exercises on the alert problem participated in by the Guard in defense of the State of Utah for the week beginning May 9, 1960. The radio announcement contained the notice that the Mormon Battalion was participating in the exercises with the Utah National Guard.

The very great courtesy was extended the Mormon Battalion of inviting Col. Fred M. Reese to sit on the reviewing stand with the reviewing generals.

After the review a class was held at which the problems of the attack then going on against the United States and particularly Utah were considered. This was followed by a jujitsu demonstration both interesting and informative.

The evening's proceedings closed with a gorgeous smorgasbord of all you could eat of the finest there is. The Battalion members were guests of the guard at this delightful repast.

The occasion was memorable in that it was the Battalion's first appearance on such an occasion. It was an evening to be long remembered by those who were there.

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Pursuant to a memorandum from Adjutant Wendell R. Jones, the Mormon Battalion met at its first banquet at Jackling Hall, UNG Armory, at 7:00 p.m. on May 21, 1960. It was Armed Forces Day. Ladies of the Battalion were invited and an excellent dinner was arranged, and given by Vaughn Wimmer.

At this fine affair, there was excellent entertainment, including songs by Richard and Dorothy Keddington; Verde White and Gwen Wimmer. Pictures of Mormon Battalion treks were shown by Battalion photographer Dean Andrus. An outline of what is ahead for the Battalion was outlined by Lt. Col. Elias L. Day. Col. Fred M. Reese presented a number of important awards for those who had taken the Civil Defense course at Camp Williams. A good time was enjoyed by all.

The Battalion had two of its members present who were running for governor — Cleon Skousen on the Republican ticket and Sheldon R. Brewster on the Democratic ticket. Also Capt. Verl Dixon of Provo was present, he being a candidate for Secretary of State.

Armed Forces Day seems to be an established institution for the State of Utah and the Mormon Battalion fittingly observed it this year at Jackling Hall.

"Sand in Their Shoes" opened for its second annual performance on May 27, 1960, at the BYU Stadium, Provo.

The Mormon Battalion was again extended the courtesy of opening the pageant by appearing in uniform, parading through the business district of Provo and presenting the colors, and reading "The Orders of the Day."

A thrilling story of the enlistment, march and work of the Battalion was vividly portrayed in this great pageant.

Lt. Col. Jay Hunt, commander of the Southern Division of the Mormon Battalion, led the parade and Lt. Col. Elias L. Day took care of the arrangements.

The Mormon Battalion was on the job early Decoration Day, May 30, 1960. The Salt Lake Tribune of Monday morning reported: "The first Memorial Day ceremonies will be noted at 6 a.m. Monday at the Mormon Battalion Monument on the Utah State Capitol grounds. Officers and men of the group will meet for patriotic



Pres. David O. McKay and General Fred E. H. Curtis Admire the Modern-day Mormon Battalion Flag.

talks, a flag ceremony, and musical numbers. Col. Fred M. Reese, in charge of the pageant, said the group plans to make the ceremony an annual affair."

The exercises were well attended. The Battalion was at the monument at 6 a.m. and the program started immediately. The Battalion was formed and moved to the northeast corner of the monument, where there is depicted a life-sized likeness of Pres. Brigham Young calling for volunteers for the Battalion.

The occasion was favored by the presence of Bugler Stanley Johnson and a young bugler, Stephen West, who wants to join the Battalion. They sounded the call to the colors and the colors were then presented. Battalion Chaplain Joseph S. Bennion offered a beautiful prayer fitting the observance. Brig. Gen. Fred E. Curtis then delivered an informative address on the glorious history and record of the Battalion.

The interesting program immediately ahead for the Battalion, including the dedication services at Camp Floyd in June and the great parade at Washington, D.C. January, 1961, as well as other coming events were then presented by Lt. Col. Elias L. Day. Col. Day said that a record of the Battalion is written in letters of bronze and gold in California; that bet-

ter plaques should be placed at the Monument to tell the story in Utah. The work of the Battalion was a blessing to the Mormon people and the United States. The sharp crack of the rifles of the American Legion Firing Squad with "Taps" played by the buglers in echo concluded the program. The colors were then retrieved and the Battalion retired.

Those who participated in this memorable occasion were: Brig. Gen. Fred E. Curtis, Col. Fred M. Reese, Lt. Col. Elias L. Day, Lt. Col. Wendell Jones, Lt. Col. Harold H. Jenson, Major Joseph S. Bennion, Sgt. Merrit Norton, Sgt. Ray Utley, Elmer Shingleton, Ernest Kimball, William Erickson, James V. Olson and Stephen West, the bugler boy.

See BATTALION, Page 4



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The Mormon Battalion in Parade Formation Prepares to Pass in Review.



The Battalion Has Its Own Drum and Bugle Corps That Adds Much to the Spirit of the Group.



Many Battalion Bus Tours Have Been Made in the Past Few Years. Here the Battalion Arrives at the Grand Canyon.

BATTALION, From Page 3

On June 11, 1960, the Mormon Battalion was invited to participate at the dedication and Memorial services of the first Utah State Park as a Military Cemetery. It is called the Camp Floyd Historical State Park at Cedar Valley, Utah.

The services commenced promptly at 9:30 a.m. Speakers, Gov. George D. Clyde and Brig. Gen. Franklin Riter delivered the memorial address. Harold P. Fabian, chairman of the Utah State Park Commission, was master of ceremonies and Commander Glendon W. Peysar, District Eight, American Legion, had charge of the Memorial program.

The Mormon Battalion was given the high distinction of being the Guard of Honor, occupying a position under the monument, the newly erected flag pole, and of holding the colors of the 2nd Dragoons and another Regiment of Gen. Johnston's original army. Reference was made from the speaker's stand of the connection of the Mormon Battalion with the event. It was that when Gen. Johnston returned to the East, Gen. Phillip St. George Cooke was placed in command at Camp Floyd and left with the army when the camp was abandoned. The chairman said, "We are honored today with the presence of the Mormon Battalion, dressed in the uniforms of the time, honoring Johnston's army when the camp was established with some 3,500 soldiers and over 1100 civilian attaches." Gen. Riter recalled stirring memories of the war heroes and dead of the United States armies. The neat headstones with the names and other information of the

deceased soldiers, recall to mind the sacrifices of America's fighting men.

The participation of the Battalion was arranged by Lt. Col. Elias L. Day. Capt. Verl Dixon of Provo was Battalion officer of the day. The Battalion's detail was commanded by Col. Fred M. Reese. Master Sgt. Vallee Davis was in charge of the flag detail. Brooks, Carson, Norton, Kirkham, Erickson, Wilson, Butterfield, Olsen, Dixon, Hansen, Carson, Hale, Smith, Smith, Jr. and West were the men of the line.

The Mormon Battalion was invited as a special guest to participate in the Centennial Parade on the 100th birthday of the founding of Hyrum, Cache County, Utah.

The Battalion recognizing and honoring the local men of the Mormon Battalion, selected National President of the SUP, Earl A. Hansen, to lead the Battalion as its commanding officer. His assistants were Maj. Jesse E. Rich and Capt. Vern Muir. The members of Company D responded in a fine manner and the event was very successful.

The parade formed at the eastern end of Main Street at Hyrum and proceeded west. Large crowds on foot and in their automobiles lined both sides of Main Street and the Battalion was given a continuous ovation by the generous clapping of the spectators as they passed in the parade.

It is highly fitting that the original Mormon Battalion, which did so much in bringing about the inclusion of this part of the nation, which is our home, into

See BATTALION, Page 5



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OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE MORMON BATTALION — From left to right, Drummer Elmer Shingleton, William Erickson, J. V. Olsen, Col. Fred M. Reese and Lt. Col. Elias L. Day.

BATTALION, From Page 4

the Union should be represented when a historical event such as the celebration of the one hundredth birthday of the founding of a community is held. The present Battalion was organized in memory of the great service of the original Battalion.

The tenth annual performance of the great pageant "All Faces West," which tells the story honoring the Mormon Pioneers, was held at Ogden, July 14th and 15th, 1960. The Mormon Battalion was honored by being invited to participate in the pageant this year on Friday, July 15, which was designated as the Ernest R. McKay night. He was captain of Company "C" of the Battalion for many years, and just recently passed away. The idea of the Ernest R. McKay night was suggested by Lt. Col. Harold H. Jensen.

Under the direction of Col. Fred M. Reese in charge and according to arrangements made by Lt. Col. Elias L. Day, the Battalion moved to Ogden and participated in a special parade along Washington Boulevard through the business district at 6:00 p.m. It was the first time the entire Battalion took part in a parade at Ogden. Two bus loads went from Salt Lake City and were joined by units from Company "D" at Logan and Com-

pany "E" at Lehi. The parade featured a police escort, a brass band and Utah's most famous athlete, Jack Dempsey. In addition, there were queens and cars carrying important civic officials.

As the Battalion passed in review along the parade route at two corners loud speaker systems gave an excellent history of the Battalion. Ernest Cameron McKay, son of Ernest R. McKay, led the Battalion parade as commanding officer.

After the parade ended the Battalion proceeded to the stadium where the colors were presented. Then Lt. Col. Harold H. Jensen, in a well-worded speech, presented Sister Ernest R. McKay an orchid corsage.

The presenting of the colors was under the direction of Sgt. Vallee Davis and the invocation was given by Sgt. Ned Winder.

Horace A. Sorensen contributed much to the success of the occasion by furnishing free transportation. Much favorable publicity was given to the Battalion by the Ogden Standard-Examiner.

The Battalion was privileged to participate in a number of events during the Days of '47 celebration the past summer.

HELP ELECT NED WINDER

To the STATE SENATE

A real go-getter . . . former president S. U. P. Pioneer Chapter and Sgt. Major in Mormon Battalion.

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They were given responsibility of posting the colors at the Ute Stadium where the East-bound mail was delivered, and where the Pony Express rider escaped the Indian attack, although the station was burned.

The Battalion was invited to post the colors and otherwise participate in the Sunrise services at Lindsay Gardens.

The Battalion took part in the great parade and with the marching music furnished by Elmer and Clarence Shingleton, who handled the drums, Ernest Kimball with the cymbals and the three trumpet boys, Steven West, Richard Wenger and David Christensen, the Battalion was enabled to make a fine appearance. In the evening the Battalion, as they marched in the parade, was shown on television.

At the great pageant "Valiantly Onward," the Battalion was invited to post the colors and escort the queen and her attendants to their seats of honor in the Tabernacle.

On August 6, 1960, at Midvale, the Mormon Battalion, as especially invited guests, participated in the parade, which was witnessed by from 10,000 to 12,000 people.

This was a first appearance for the Battalion in the Harvest Days event and the spectators cheered and clapped as they passed in review.

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SALT AIR AND PHANTOM FLOTILLA

By ILENE H. KINGSBURY

The West is addicted to superlatives. The odd, the excessive, the remarkable have always been better or more so than anywhere else in the world. Our most modest adjectives have been those used by other sections when they considered themselves bragging. Thus we are used to biggest, best, the only, unsurpassed, never-before-attempted, and other such words which match our geography for size and our scenery for color.

And smack-dab-in-the-middle of the Great Salt Lake Valley is a structure which cannot be described without superlatives of vast distinction and various color. We have never spoken of Saltair in modest or mundane terms. Unquestionably its Islamic architecture with onion-like domes and egg-shaped roof and its variety of arches called Ogee, Lancet, trefoil and horseshoe are a shock in an otherwise Mormon atmosphere. The lace from a jigsaw presents perfect gingerbread. The frills of another age are preserved here. This pavilion for pleasure, this spa, this carnival arena reminds the world traveler of something transplanted from the mosque country half-way around the globe. And instead of hearing a call to public worship we hear echoes of recreation.

Research can be either factual or fanciful. Either phase gives us a case of nostalgia, which is another word for homesickness, when we consider historic Saltair. We shall endeavor to cover the field and thus please all who have loved this Western Coney Island.

The cold-sober facts are in themselves on the amazing side, especially when one considers the obstacles encountered in obtaining a forest of ten-inch piles on which to rest a nine-acre structure out in deep salt water. Seven thousand piles were put on the spot and were embedded in several feet of salt-impregnated water through which the piles were set in steam-drilled holes down beyond salt, silt, and a rock reef formed of the remains of microscopic life. After these preparations the pavilion was superimposed.

The date of the launching of this vast structure on the east shore of the Great Salt Lake was 1893. After forty-six years in the Valley the Mormons had gone through the drudgery of making the desert blossom. Churches, schools, theaters, jails, universities, canals, hospitals, and homes from dugout to log to adobe to brick; all had been built during that era. The community was now ready for carefree recreation. Saltair became the answer to the need.

Eight hundred workmen labored four months at a cost of \$350,000 to achieve this wonder across the alkali land. The Mormon plan of letting the unemployed earn their bread was again used here as in previous public works, and the hundreds of families so benefitted became pretty proud of the labor put on this palace by the salt sea. The Moorish style had a utility value, as all things Mormon simply had to have. The four onion-shaped balls atop the entrance towers

were actually fresh water tanks in spite of their traditional beauty. The ballroom, 200 by 250 feet, was the largest in America, or so we believed locally. The roof, and its pattern, the Tabernacle on Temple Square, were the only edifices of similar shape in the region.

All this facility for fun necessitated the building of a railroad to the lake at a cost of \$200,000. For 4,000 feet into the lake the railroad tracks were pile supported. For twenty-five years the motive power was coal, but by 1918 the electric cars took over, and now for some years diesel engines spin the wheels along.

The first manager was Col. N. W. Clayton who for twelve years did the bidding of the owners and builders, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. By the time the Church was will-



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This Aerial View of Saltair Was Taken Shortly Before the Close of the Last Season the Historic Site Was Open.

—Photo Courtesy Salt Lake Tribune Library

ing to sell out, the year was 1905, four men bought it. They were Col. N. W. Clayton, J. E. Langford, C. W. Nibley, and Joseph Nelson. After a year of this partnership Nelson and Langford bought out the other two. By another half-dozen years Mr. Nelson became the sole owner.

In the meantime, the place was advertised as the biggest thrill west of Atlantic City. Multitudes swarmed to Utah's fabulous Dead Sea for a float on the brine. Exciting times were predicted for Saltair and they were not long in coming. One spring day in 1910 a strong wind picked up 200 bathhouses and paved the beach with kindling. The management quickly built 1,100 new bathhouses in six tears which extended 450 feet into the lake. That was the year athletics came to Saltair. Boxing matches were held in the Hippodrome west of the saloon and thousands cheered. Then twenty toreadors came up from Mexico and staged a bullfight in the same place. We note that in Utah the bulls were approached with wooden swords out of consideration to domestic animals. As bullfights were not a repeat performance we may adduce they were not bloody enough.

From 1923 to 1959 ownership of Saltair came into the hands of various men whose names read like a financial roster. Zion's Savings Bank and Trust controlled the interests from 1923 to 1925. Then with the ups and downs of the fortunes of the resort many others invested in it.

Then came the test by fire of the famed place. One day in 1925 flames from the place could be seen from the East Bench, 25 miles away. The next day only seven thousand piles, sticking up like devastated dinosaur legs, could be seen above the gently lapping salt ripples. A trio of energetic business men then invested in and restored the leasure spot. They were W. T. Cannon, D. P. Howells, and Ashby Snow.

By May of 1928 a new structure, still Moorish in style arose to be reflected in the blue waters of the inland sea. This

new Saltair accommodated twice as many cars in its parking lot, its lower floor was a decided improvement for basket lunch parties and could lay claim to be the world's most commodious bowery with a dancehall for a roof. The new ballroom now contained semi-circular seats for the onlookers and the brand-new smell of the place was praised by all. The grand opening had appropriate advertising and a most satisfactory attendance.

The second of major fires to afflict Saltair was to near disaster point in 1931. On July 22 of that season fire broke out on the southwest pavilion and the fun-house area at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. For two hours the pony racer, the scooter, the fun house, the hurdy gurdy, the drink stands and finally the giant racer which had cost \$70,000 burned and fell in ashes to the cement floor. Hundreds thronged the pier and slowed the firemen, but luckily the breeze turned away from the pavilion toward the Magna shore, and the main structure was saved.

Nothing daunted, 1932 saw the rebuilding of the giant racer which must never, never collapse! It looked the part of the longest, highest, most frightening ride in the world. It was to last only five years.

Conflagration was staved off for some years, but on June 20, 1951, fire destroyed two rows of bathhouses, the laundry, the boiler room and the hothouse to the amount of \$100,000. By this time Herbert A. Snow was president of the Saltair Beach Company as Cannon had sold his third to the Snow interests in 1939. Then about this time the water level screamed alarm. Bathers were forced to swim on the lake side of the pavilion instead of the valley side. A five-acre enclosure was dredged for foot comfort and a channel one-half mile west of the resort was dug to bring in the reluctant sea. By 1955 this was a sort of captive crystal pool, but bathers grumbled that they must entrain from the pavilion to get a

See SALT AIR, Page 11



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Glenn (wife of Dr. Arthur L. Beeley), accepting the new 50 Star Flag from Mr. Stanley Bowman, S. L. Tribune; SUP President Arthur Grix presenting the Flag Pole and Horace A. Sorensen, presiding as Craft House Board Chairman, Oct. 1, 1960.



JACK DEMPSEY *Former World's Heavyweight Champion* — presenting a 50 Star Flag to the Village when he visited it this summer. He values his heritage and his old home town, Salt Lake, and we were delighted to have him among our distinguished guests. *Horace A. Sorensen*, left, receiving it.

ANDREW JENSEN HONORED showing his son, Harold, our National Society Historian, a chip off the old block, posed before mural of Andrew Jensen and his Pioneer Library, *now shown in entrance at the Village*, honoring this great Church Historian, dedicated with other mementos by A. William Lund, fellow historian, on August 13th, 1960.



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*appeared here
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Dr. Joseph F. Merrill

By RICHARD R. LYMAN

(Continued from last issue)

(This article is a continuation of a series. It was written by Dr. Lyman in 1952.)

PART III — Conclusion

Dr. Merrill was a dynamic searcher for truth. He aimed to impress those teaching in the seminaries and institutes that the essence of true religion is based upon intelligence as well as faith. He aimed to have a truly educated and trained leadership for the young people of the Church who were studying in the Church seminaries and institutes of religion. He aimed to have the teachers in the LDS Department of Education comparable in scholarship with the best of those who were teaching in the secular schools. He was especially emphatic in his expectation that those who went away to study should come back with strong loyalty for and strong faith in the Church. The experience of the graduate students at the University of Chicago was most stimulating and exhilarating. These students gained new knowledge and insight into Biblical and historical scholarship. They became acquainted with the trends of other religions and their philosophy of life. All this afforded them a new perspective with which to compare and to contrast our own Church and its doctrines with others. Thus they acquired an increased respect and admiration for the heroic and constructive achievements of the Latter-day Saints and their leaders and a deeper appreciation of the Mormon way of life.

Beginning with the summer of 1930 Dr. Merrill brought from the University of Chicago four of the greatest scholars in the United States to Utah to instruct the seminary teachers in some of the basic areas of religious studies. Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed was of the New Testament Department; Dr. William C. Graham of the Old Testament Department; Dr. John T. McNeil of the Church History Department and Dr. Clayton C. Bower of the Religious Education Department. These distinguished scholars taught in the summer schools of the Brigham Young University and while so doing they were given the very best opportunity for them to see the Church and many Church people exactly as they are. The impressions made on these great educators was most gratifying. What other man has brought the restored gospel message so clearly and favorably to the attention of such leading and influential people?

Here are some of the results: In one of his classes in the University of Chicago,

Dr. McNeil said: "There is more religious vitality manifested in Mormon communities, and a closer application of the principles of Christianity to life situations than among any other group with whom I have come in contact." In response to the question what religious trends are most vital in American Christianity Dr. Bowers said: "If the Mormon people can maintain their standards and ideals, they need not worry about anything stopping their growth because they are bound to become the dominant church of the earth, for, to paraphrase the Savior, 'By their birth rate they shall inherit the earth.'" And on another occasion he said that the Mormon Church is holding a higher percentage of its young people and keeping more of its young married people active in the Church than any other body in American Christianity.

All of these distinguished men expressed their admiration and high regard for the Mormon people, their way of life and their high educational standards. They were impressed by the religious vitality, the high proportion of men who were active in the Church, the high civic standards of the Utah communities, and the high quality of the Mormon Church leaders. These sentiments were expressed by these educators on the Chicago campus repeatedly both in public and semi-public gatherings.

In a number of cases the Utah students were invited by their ministerial friends to deliver addresses in their respective churches on the subject of Mormonism. And upon one occasion when an anti-Mormon agitator tried to stir up opposition to the Mormon students in a University dormitory the young ministers present defended the Mormon students against the unjust slanders of their opponents.

And there was much comment among the theological students and young ministers on the campus concerning both the manner and the degree in which the Mormons were gaining distinction by bringing such famous men to teach in their Church university. Where is there another man who has done missionary work as important and effective in high educational circles as Dr. Merrill did during his administration as Church Commissioner of Education? When will there be another scholar and missionary equal to him? He was certainly a man of unusual inspiration and leadership. I have known some of his ideas and suggestions to be greeted in the beginning with violent opposition by those who later saw the wisdom in them and advocated their adoption. Who has the scholarship and wisdom which are necessary to continue the No-Liquor-To-bacco campaign which he has so successfully carried on for so many years in the

Improvement Era? I always read his articles and I generally read them first.

He was my pal. He was my friend. He was my twin spirit. God bless his memory. In all our many activities together he was my leader. How can I get along without him! He wrote the accompanying article on Our Pioneer Heritage at my request. The ink of his signature on this and other material he sent to me was hardly dry when his sudden and final passing came. And now, with a broken heart, I wonder how and where I can find another friend equal in wisdom, charity and goodness to my beloved brother Joseph F. Merrill.

Great as were his achievements in advancing the standards of scholarship in the University of Utah and in the Church School System, these were no more striking than his achievements in encouraging and advancing the scholarship of members of the Merrill family in general and even in his own household. It is said that 250 members of the Merrill family have been awarded college degrees. At the commencement exercises of the University of Utah in 1922 the Bachelor of Arts degree with a High School Teachers' Diploma was awarded to Emily Traub Merrill, his wife; Annie Hyde Merrill and Edith Hyde Merrill, his daughters, on the same platform and on the same day. His other four children have bachelor degrees and one a doctor's degree. No words at my command can describe so forcefully and effectively the unusual and native mental caliber of Joseph F. Merrill as do these simple facts.

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SALT AIR, From Page 7

swim. By 1956 the management added a Saltair Land area and visitors noted knights in shining armor and castle fronts as the decor. This mixed the architectural styles somewhat — Moorish and Old English, but children were pleased with the added variety of rides. New cars were installed on the giant racer and the thrills of speed and danger were enjoyed by all. Then one August night in 1957 a 75-mile an hour wind tugged at and finally toppled this breath-taking giant. Its twisted frame gradually settled in the salt. With this disaster to a big thrill potential other activities also gave up, so to speak. Dancing was no longer a regular pastime there, and finally only the annual June Dance Festival of the MIA reawakened memories of a glorious past or a wishful hope for the future.

News broke again for Saltair on Jan. 8, 1959, when the owners decided to give it away! The State of Utah received from the Saltair Beach Company, Ashby Snow, president: 28 acres of lease land, 350 acres of beach land, the mosque-like pavilion and all that appertained thereto, valued at an estimated \$525,000. Governor George D. Clyde accepted the property for the citizens with the promise that the legislature would appropriate funds for the restoration of the historic site.

News items have frequently appeared since 1959. We are all interested, for we own this vast and sentimental domain. The Utah Parks Commission has ordered it closed until 1961. Since Feb. 6, 1960, studies have been made to dig a canal 2,000 feet long and 100 feet wide at the Saltair development to enhance boating facilities, levies, dykes, docks, etc. The 1960 shoreline is 2,000 feet from the pavilion and underwater reefs can be used to advantage in the above facilities. During May of 1960 the Legislative Council drew a dismal picture as it toured Saltair, but on May 25th the Utah Parks Commission gave the Sons of Utah Pioneers permission to make Saltair a historical viewpoint for benefit of tourists. The question of the use or disuse of Saltair has not been settled as sentimentality vies with reality of costs. Perhaps the last chapter of Saltair has not yet been written.

BOOK REVIEW

By **VIRGIL V. PETERSON**

THE STORY OF GEORGE ROMNEY — BUILDER, SALESMAN, CRUSADER, by Tom Mahoney. Harper & Brothers, New York, 4.00.

The story of George Romney as told by Tom Mahoney is a fascinating, comprehensive word-picture of one of America's greatest automotive crusaders. As president of American Motor's Corporation, he is reputed to be "the most colorful and important leader to emerge in the automobile industry since the late Walter P. Chrysler."

Imbued with a conviction that the American public would accept a compact car, Romney staked his future on the idea and prayed and planned and pushed his way to the top against discouraging odds — to see economical transportation triumph over "gas-guzzling dinosaurs." He is as a "David" mastering a "Goliath."

Author Mahoney draws from a vast background of personal and business information to portray, in a very readable style, the growth of a great personality and character. He traces the life of George Romney through his boyhood in Mexico, his early manhood in Utah and Idaho, his missionary experiences in Scotland and England and his school years in Washington where he also started his business career.

According to the biographer, Romney's Detroit experiences in the automotive industry are most unusual. Matching judgement and wits with astute business associates and competitors makes the story a drama of fast-moving events. Mergers, advertising, business losses, proxy fights all called for momentous decisions on Romney's part. It was these decisions activated by study, work and clear thinking that brought him to the top position at American Motors.

Citizens of Detroit realized that there rested in this unusual business executive abilities needed in civic matters. As a result he was drafted into service in solving school and state government problems making him one of the outstanding public figures in his adopted Michigan.



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SUP PROFILES

V. R. LEANY

V. R. Leany was born September 10, 1904, at Harrisburg, Washington County, Utah, a son of 12 Utah Pioneers counting parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. That's a lot of pioneering heritage for one son to emotionalize. Therefore, until now Mr. Leany has concentrated his pioneering historical research mostly around the eventful lives of his paternal grandparents, William and Elizabeth Scarce Leany, the former of whom he never knew personally, but for whom he has developed an understanding love and admiration through studying what he did and stood for.

His grandfather Leany lived through the Haun's Mill Massacre; both he and his wife, to be, knew intimately the Prophet Joseph Smith, and they were married by Brigham Young in Nauvoo, Sept. 7, 1845. With three good outfits, one of which was driven by a hired man, they crossed the plains with the first big company, arriving in the Salt Lake Valley in September 1847. Then in the fall of 1850 William Leany was one of the original 130 men with families called to settle Parowan, Iron County, Utah.

Because of their farming experiences in Kentucky, this couple knew cotton and indigo culture, so were called to help settle the Dixie Cotton Mission in the winter of 1861-62. This move to Harrisburg was their last, and the cemetery there is their final resting place.

Their third son, Hyrum, was born at Parowan, Aug. 26, 1852. As Sunday School superintendent at Harrisburg in 1888 he fell in love with and married his secretary, Mary M. Woodbury from St. George but at that time living at Harrisburg teaching school. Their family of 11 children, of whom V. R. Leany was 7th, were all raised at Harrisburg.

"V. R." maintains that most all of his worthwhile life accomplishments have been inspired by decisions to take the course that would be most pleasing to this honest, hard-working, prudent father, of high esteem to all who knew him.

Besides elementary school at Leeds, three miles' distance from Harrisburg, "V. R.'s" book learning was completed at Dixie High and College at St. George, with Vasco M. Tanner as one of his most highly esteemed teachers and with Crawford Houston also a member of the student body one or two years.

"V. R.'s" ecclesiastical accomplishments included a 1926-28 L.D.S. mission served in Northern California under President Joseph W. McMurrin; service in Sunday School superintendencies at Leeds and at St. George; genealogy committee service and temple work. Presently, and going strong after 7 years in the position, he's



V. R. LEANY

serving as ward clerk in the St. George Third Ward.

His community service can be listed as follows: Member of the board of directors of the St. George Lions Club the year they built and donated to the city of St. George the \$40,000 "Dixie Sun Bowl" stadium; member of the St. George Chamber of Commerce for many years; mayor of St. George, five years; also served as appointive justice of the peace of the city of St. George.

As square dance enthusiasts he and his wife have belonged to the Calico and Jeans square dance club for 10 years, with "V. R." serving as president of it and chairman of fourth annual Dixie Square Dance Jamboree for one year.

In courtship prior to his mission, "V. R." and his future wife, LaFave Jones, fell in love and were engaged to each other. This engagement survived the mission and they were married April 10, 1928. Their blankets were thrown together at the then deserted town of Har-

See LEANY, Page 15

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BATTALION, From Page 5

All, and all this, has been a most unusual and most successful year for the Mormon Battalion. Beginning with the wonderful exercises at Fort Stockton at San Diego last winter and continuing down through the participation in "Sand in Their Shoes," "All Faces West," Centennial at Hyrum, the grand parade of July 25, in Salt Lake City, to say nothing of the Pony Express, the exercises in Pioneer Square, the dedication of the cemetery at Camp Floyd, a number of schools at Camp Williams and others have made it a very fine year.

The Mormon Battalion was invited to participate in the parade at Union Fort Days, held at Union on Saturday, August 20, 1960, in connection with the revival of Union Fort Days.

The parade started at 5:30 p.m. and the Battalion Chaplain, Maj. Joseph Ben- nion, took the part of Lt. Col. Phillip St. George Cooke as commander of the Bat- talion for the day. Chad Wright was chairman of Union Fort Days celebration.

Participating in the parade, the mu- sic of which was furnished by "Doc" Olsen, Ernest Kimball and Stephen West, were Francis Kirkham, John Butterfield, A. S. Youd, Vallee Davis, John Bushman, James Carson, Ray Wilson, Ray A. Nor- ton and Ray Utley of the color guard detail, and others of the line.

The cheering crowd along the line of the parade, which ended at the Union park, gave special recognition to the Battalion.

At the conclusion of the parade the Battalion was cordially invited to par- ticipate again in 1961.

The Battalion is looking forward to an even greater year in 1961. It is hoped that 1961 will include participation in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D. C.

Thus the modern-day Mormon Bat- talion carries on the tradition of that band of men of over one hundred years ago. If the Battalion can continually re- mind the people of state and nation of the tremendous accomplishments of the Pioneers of yesteryear, and serve in the defense of their ideals, it has indeed ac- complished its purpose.

MORMON BATTALION SPECIAL BULLETIN

The Mormon Battalion staff voted at the last meeting to accept the invitation to represent the State of Utah in the great inaugural parade for the new President of the United States to be held in Wash- ington, D. C., on January 20, 1961.

Brig. Gen. Fred E. Curtis was named as chairman of the parade committee and cards inviting Battalion members to in- dicate whether or not they will be able to attend this trek of a lifetime have al- ready been placed in the mail. It is urged that the Battalion members be prompt in giving the information requested on the card.

Under the very able direction of Lt. Frank R. Goodman, 3664 South 20th East Street, IN 7-6483, the membership of the companies are being rapidly recruited to full strength. Any Son who would like to become a member of the Battalion and take part in the never-to-be-forgotten trek should see Lt. Goodman immediately. Reasonable rates for transportation and ac- commodations are being arranged and a fine pageant typical of the great service of the Mormon Battalion, to our people, and the nation, is being prepared to be given at Washington.

ODE TO MARCHING FEET

(A Tribute to the Mormon Battalion)

A hardy group these men of faith,
Yet men of solemn faces,
For they had signed as volunteers
To march through unknown places.

Families and loved ones leave behind
To serve their country's call,
But Brigham prophesied if they'd be true
They would not fight, in battle none
would fall.

Many long months their feet would
march —
A history-making epic,
From camp at old Mount Pisgah
Onward south and then on west, on to
the Pacific.

March, march, march, march,
To join the Army of the West camped
at Santa Fe.
A war was on with Mexico;
March on, march on, the Lord would
show the way.

Tongues dry, feet burning, march, march,
march —
Forced into eating their oxen for food;
The beasts themselves were barely skin
and bones;
Even soup from strips of rawhide
tasted good.

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—Robert B. Fox

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National Society, Sons of Utah Pioneers**— FINANCIAL REPORT —****INCOME, RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

August 1, 1959 through July 31, 1960

PLEASE NOTE: None of the receipts of this account are applied IN ANY WAY to the support of the Pioneer Village or Railroad Museums.

CASH ON HAND AND IN THE BANK, as of August 1, 1959..... \$ 840.57

Receipts and deposits for period as follows:

Donations	\$ 200.00	
National Membership Dues.....	4,927.00	
Advertising in SUP News.....	4,411.35	
Interest on Government Bonds.....	40.00	
Pioneer Stories Sold.....	12.75	
Treks and Encampments.....	3,181.69	
U. of U. for Memorial Theatre Drive.....	650.00	
Misc., and SUP News Sales and Tel.....	438.83	
Total Receipts and Deposits.....	13,861.62	13,861.62
Total On Hand and Receipts To Account For.....		\$14,702.19

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD AS FOLLOWS:

Salaries and Wages (includes U.U. Theatre Drive)		
Gross: \$4,093.00 Taxes: \$426.07	\$ 4,666.93	
Taxes: Payroll and Sales Taxes.....	457.09	
SUP News, Adv. Commissions.....	686.66	
SUP News, Printing Costs.....	3,867.45	
SUP News, Office Supplies and Postage.....	940.00	
Pictures, Frames, and Emblems.....	24.38	
Treks and Encampments.....	3,084.23	
Tel. and Tel.....	606.24	
Truck, Auto and Travel.....	111.52	
Misc. Expenses	83.83	
Total Disbursements For Period.....	14,528.95	14,528.95
Total On Hand and In the Bank.....		\$ 173.24
Bills not paid: Quality Press, for printing of SUP News \$2,021.84		

Report submitted by:

Ronald L. Kingsbury
National Treasurer

REPORT OF INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS

August 1, 1959 through July 31, 1960

Pioneer Village Museum and Railroad (Corinne) Museum

CASH ON HAND AND IN THE BANK as of Aug. 1, 1959..... \$ 300.19

Pioneer Village Museum	Railroad Museum
------------------------------	--------------------

RECEIPTS AND DEPOSITS FOR PERIOD AS FOLLOWS:

Cash donated by H. A. Sorensen to:		
Pioneer Village and Railroad Museums.....	\$18,850.00	
Cash Donated, All Others to Two Museums.....	592.00	
Cash Donated, Administration Building Fund.....	1,197.00	
Pioneer Village Admissions.....	16,693.25	
Railroad (Corinne) Museum Admissions.....		\$ 1,223.47
Rental of Facilities — Pioneer Village.....	375.00	
Insurance and Tax Refunds—Pioneer Village.....	521.07	
Sales of Merchandise.....	405.04	
Total Receipts and Deposits, Period.....	38,633.36	1,223.47
Total On Hand and Receipts To Account For.....	\$38,933.55	\$ 1,223.47

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD AS FOLLOWS:

Building — Capital Investment.....	\$ 6,745.77	\$ 970.69
Administration Bldg., Investment.....	1,511.03	
Grounds and Roads.....	3,858.56	348.99
Salaries and Wages		
Pioneer Village	Gross Taxes 1,936.13 448.42	1,487.71
Railroad Museum	2,200.00 490.61	132.73

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Insurance	468.30	170.47
Feed and Care of Animals.....	2,124.45	
Office, Postage, and Printing.....	103.12	120.77
Pictures, Frames, Signs, and Displays.....	788.36	39.89
Repairs and Maintenance.....	2,326.84	1,036.95
TV, Parades and Other Entertainment.....	314.43	608.32
Supplies	420.11	631.36
Taxes, Licenses, SS/Wh and Sales Taxes.....	865.61	658.64
Telephone and Telegraph.....	381.92	243.10
Truck, Auto and Other Travel.....	2,230.01	
Other Misc. Expenses.....	913.89	495.17
Total Disbursements For Period.....	\$31,451.16	\$ 8,460.58
Net	7,482.39	(7,237.11)
Balance On Hand and In the Bank.....	\$245.28	

Donations to the Museum, Other Than Cash,
Made by: Horace A. Sorensen for 1960:

Antiques and relics purchased
and donated to the museums:

Report submitted by:
Ronald L. Kingsbury
National Treasurer

LEANY, From Page 12

risburg, at the old farm and home of the groom's parents. That summer they raised the last cultivated crop to ever be raised on the old Harris homestead, where the Moses Harris', for whom the town was named, first settled.

Of four children born to "V. R." and his good wife LaFave, three are still living and married. Through them the Leany's have 14 grandchildren, 13 living. With only a borrowed \$100 to start on, "V. R." says times were tough for them through the depression years, but through farming operations and various other business ventures at St. George they have bettered their financial status considerably. At the close of 1957 they purchased the Liberty Hotel of St. George, for which reason they at that time sold out the shoe store and repair shop they had successfully operated since the opening of it in the autumn of 1949.

"V. R." must admit that old age is catching up with him prematurely, for he dearly enjoys reliving the past, through his S.U.P. activities. He says he has enjoyed serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Dixie Mission Chapter of Sons of Utah Pioneers since the chartering of that chapter five years ago. Also he says he is voicing the sentiment of the entire membership of the Dixie Mission Chapter of S.U.P. and of the St. George Centennial Committee when he says "Thanks" to the National Society of Sons of Utah Pioneers for giving us the 1961 annual encampment, to be held in St. George over the long Labor Day week-end and as part of our Centennial celebration. We will endeavor to make your visit to our fair city at that time very worthwhile and enjoyable.

Also, "V. R." thanks you all for the trust and honor of his placement to serve on your board of directors for the ensuing year. And he says he accepts the assignment humbly and as a highlight of his life, in consideration of the fine men with whom it will be his lot to associate while serving in this capacity.

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VOTE SHARP



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GRANT SULLIVAN Star of Stage and Screen, currently starring in the Television Show, "PONY EXPRESS," as Brett Clark, Pony Express Division Agent, every Thursday Evening, 8:30 p.m., Channel 2, KUTV. Be sure and see History's Heroes racing death on the blazing trail to deliver the precious mail that connected East and West. *Grant Sullivan*, during his visit to Salt Lake in person for July 23, 24 and 25 celebration, presented our Museum with a great reproduction of Artist Remington's "Ponies Coming and Going," *Horace A. Sorensen, right, receiving it.* This TV Show, sponsored by HOTPOINT APPLIANCES and SOUTH EAST FURNITURE COMPANY, Sugar House.



THE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION presented us with the Mochilla, used to carry the mail from Sacramento to Devil's Gate, Wyoming, also Pony Express Bible, a pair of Rider's Metals, Rider's Certificate and precious mail. These will be permanently displayed as shown above.

This Space a Public Service of: **SOUTH EAST FURNITURE CO., Sugar House, Utah**

So That the
**PONY EXPRESS
CENTENNIAL**
Will Live On
**SUP PIONEER VILLAGE
MUSEUM**
Collects and Displays



**The Salt Lake Tribune
Newspaper . . .**

Our friend Jim Perry, special advertising manager, Salt Lake Tribune, presented the Museum with the above book of newspaper clippings. Thanks to their interest in this great Centennial. It was appreciated!

**The National Pony Express
Centennial Commission**

COLONEL WADDELL SMITH

As President, and his great Commission, comprising representatives and Governors of the eight Pony Express States

Maintained Their Headquarters

During the Six Months of the
Promotion

at Our Village Museum

Thanks to Governor George Dewey Clyde for spearheading this Centennial Celebration.